



# State of the City

March 24, 2022

6 – 7:30 pm

VIRTUAL



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Contact Information



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**Molly Bartlett**, Fundraising Chair  
**Catherine Mardikes**, Programming Chair  
**John Engle**  
**Betty Magness**

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**Rae Sokolow**, Education  
**Tracy Staniel**, Collaborations & Partnerships  
**Elona Vaisnys**, Membership  
**Sharon Welch**, Events



# Program Agenda

**Anne Jamieson**, LWV Chicago President

**Melissa Conyears-Ervin**, Chicago City Treasurer

Introduction: **Anne Jamieson**

**Arne Duncan**, former US Secretary of Education

Introduction: **Clare McGuire**

**David O. Brown**, Chicago Police Superintendent

Introduction: **Vanessa Bush Ford**

**Dr. Suzet McKinney**, Principal & Director of Life Sciences, Sterling Bay

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**Joseph Ferguson**, former Chicago Inspector General

Introduction: **Jacky Grimshaw**

## **Making Democracy Work Award**

**Ami Gandhi**, Senior Counsel, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

Presenter: **Julie Shelton**

**Jane Ruby**, LWV Chicago Vice President





## Featured Speaker

### Melissa Conyears-Ervin

Melissa Conyears-Ervin is the City of Chicago's first elected treasurer in 20 years that was not previously appointed. Serving since 2019, Conyears-Ervin manages the city's \$9 billion investment portfolio and is responsible for maintaining records and accounts of the city's finances. She serves on four local pension boards with nearly \$25 billion under management.

Conyears-Ervin's career has spanned both the public and private sector. She received a Bachelor of Science in Business and Finance from Eastern Illinois University and earned a Master of Business Administration from Roosevelt University. After graduation, Conyears-Ervin worked at Allstate Insurance Corporation for over 15 years.

Previously, Conyears-Ervin served as Illinois State Representative for the 10th District, where she passed legislation in Springfield to protect child care services for all parents across the state. She also sponsored legislation that provides more than \$221 million to Chicago Public Schools, ensuring that children have the teachers and educational opportunities they need and deserve.

As Treasurer, she has taken a stand against systemic racism in finance, supported Chicago small businesses, developed an RFI process that provides firms a greater level of social responsibility and promoted financial literacy for Chicagoans. In order to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19, The Chicago Community Catalyst Fund was created to provide emergency loans to aid vulnerable Chicago businesses; it will invest up to \$50 million in the Chicago Small Business Resiliency Loan Fund to provide financial relief.





## Featured Speaker

### Arne Duncan

Arne Duncan served as U.S. Secretary of Education from January 2009 through December 2015 as part of the Obama Administration. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Duncan served as chief executive officer of Chicago Public Schools. From 2001 to 2008, Duncan won praise for uniting the city's stakeholders behind an education agenda that included opening 100 new schools; expanding after-school, summer learning, early childhood, and college access programs; dramatically boosting the caliber of teachers; and building public-private partnerships around a variety of education initiatives.

He currently leads Chicago CRED, a nonprofit trying to achieve a transformative reduction in gun violence in Chicago. Through partnerships with local business leaders, community organizers, and nonprofit groups, Duncan aims to provide outreach, therapeutic, education, and employment opportunities for the young men most likely to be engaged in gun violence. He is also the managing partner at Emerson Collective, an organization dedicated to removing barriers so people can live to their full potential. Secretary Duncan graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1987, majoring in sociology. At Harvard he served as co-captain of the basketball team and was named a first team Academic All-American.

Duncan serves on the boards of: Ariel Capital Management, Aspen Institute, Communities in Schools, Lucas Museum, My Brother's Keeper Alliance, National Association of Basketball Coaches, Revolution Foods, Thrive-Chicago and Catapult Learning, LLC. He also serves as Co-chair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.





## Featured Speaker

### David O. Brown

David O. Brown joined the Chicago Police Department in April 2020, becoming CPD's 63rd Superintendent. He brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience to Chicago and is nationally recognized for his expertise in public safety, community policing and reform.

Since joining CPD, Brown has prioritized community engagement and building trust in Chicago's communities. As part of this effort, CPD launched multiple initiatives focused on making the city's neighborhoods safer through community partnership. This includes the creation of the citywide Community Safety Team, which brings officers into areas with higher levels of crime. In addition to conducting enforcement, these officers regularly work with community-based organizations, faith leaders and residents to reduce violence and build community trust.

Earlier this year, Brown announced CPD's new liaison initiative, which is an extension of the Civil Rights Unit. As part of this initiative, LGBTQ+, homeless, immigrant and religious liaisons work citywide to advocate, support and build trust with marginalized communities.

Under Brown's leadership, CPD has continued to focus on enforcement efforts aimed at curbing the recent spike in gun violence seen in Chicago and nationwide. Officer wellness has also been a top priority for Brown, who has worked to bolster wellness resources available to Department members and shatter the stigma around seeking help.

Brown previously served as Chief of the Dallas Police Department from 2010-2016. He is also the author of a memoir *Call to Rise*.





## Featured Speaker

### Dr. Suzet M. McKinney

Dr. Suzet M. McKinney, principal and director of life sciences for Sterling Bay, is a nationally recognized public health expert. In her role, McKinney leads the strategy to expand Sterling Bay's footprint in life sciences nationwide, pursue grant programs for laboratory incubation and graduation space, and advance Sterling Bay life sciences initiatives.

Prior to joining Sterling Bay, McKinney was the CEO and Executive Director of the Illinois Medical District, one of the largest urban medical districts in the United States. McKinney is the former Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response at the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), where she oversaw the emergency preparedness efforts for the Department and coordinated those efforts within the larger spectrum of the City of Chicago's Public Safety activities, in addition to overseeing the Department's Division of Women and Children's Health.

McKinney has earned a reputation as an experienced, knowledgeable public health official with exceptional communication skills. She has served as an on-camera media expert on emergency issues including biological and chemical threats, natural disasters, pandemic influenza, and climate-related emergencies. A sought-after expert in her field, she has also provided support to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense.

She is the co-author of the text *Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Practical Solutions for the Real World* (2018).







## Featured Speaker

### Joseph Ferguson

Joseph Ferguson recently concluded a 12-year tenure as the Inspector General for the City of Chicago.

Under his stewardship, the Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) garnered national prominence and acclaim for its government performance audits covering a wide range of city agencies and programs, criminal and administrative investigations, audit-based evaluations and inspections of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), and the creation of a model user-friendly, interactive government data visualization platform for the public.

Prior to his work as Chicago Inspector General, Ferguson spent 15 years in the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) for the Northern District of Illinois. Ferguson is the co-founder and co-director of the Loyola University (Chicago) Law School National Security and Civil Rights program and currently a fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics.



# Making Democracy Work Award

## Ami Gandhi

Ami Gandhi is Senior Counsel for the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

Gandhi works to reduce barriers to voting and improve civic participation, especially in communities of color and low-income communities.

Gandhi has led statewide voter protection since 2016, partnering with community members in the criminal legal system to expand voter access, advocating for communities of color during Illinois redistricting, and

advising local election authorities as they implemented the first Hindi ballots in the country.

Her experience includes litigating cases in Illinois and Indiana and partnering with communities to write and pass legislation.

Gandhi participates in the Law, Politics, and Civic Engagement Think Tank with incarcerated community members at Stateville Correctional Center. She has also served on the boards of Common Cause Illinois and American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.



# About the Award

The League of Women Voters created the "Making Democracy Work" award in 2008 as a way to recognize and celebrate citizens who demonstrate committed, visionary leadership that strengthens our democracy. With this award, we honor an individual or group who has taken action to "Make Democracy Work" to benefit residents in Chicago.

Most recently, it was awarded to Lance Gough, former Executive Director of the Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners, in 2020.



# League of Women Voters of Chicago

## History

*Excerpted from "Administrative History" [1967], League of Women Voters of Chicago Records (MSLWVC67), Special Collections & University Archives, University of Illinois, Chicago.*

The goal of the League of Women Voters of Chicago is to promote the voice of women in American electoral politics and in American policy at all levels of government. The current league was formally established in 1950, but it is descended from or related to a large number of Illinois state and local organizations created before and after the Nineteenth Amendment recognized women's right to vote in 1919. These included, for example, the League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Illinois, the Chicago League of Women Voters Forum, the League of Women Voters of Oak Park, the Chicago Political Equality League, the Woman's City Club, and the Seventh Ward Auxiliary to the Equal Suffrage Association.

No organization in the United States today illustrates women's accession to political and public eminence as the League of Women Voters, which was born immediately after women acquired government and an advocate of feminine activism in public affairs. One of the more successful state Leagues has been the League of Women Voters of Illinois which played a significant role in the shaping and development of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Few states gave the national League the ardent support it has received from the Illinois League, and fewer still succeeded in organizing the same number of branches within the state.



The national League of Women Voters as an idea and a concept emerged during the 1919 convention of the National Women's Suffrage Association, which met in St. Louis, Missouri. The Suffrage Association, realizing that the Nineteenth Amendment which enfranchised women signaled the end of its role, was debating whether to disband or continue its existence with modified aims and purposes. Carrie Chapman Catt, a leading feminist, reluctant to see women revert to their previous state of domesticity, suggested the establishment of a league of women voters: "So that women may use their new freedom to make their nation safer for their children and their children's children. What should be done can be done; what can be done, let us do."

# League of Women Voters of Chicago

## History

Approving her suggestion, the delegates set up an interim organization headed by Mrs. C. H. Brooks of Kansas. In February of 1920, the Victory Convention of the National Woman's Suffrage Association convened in Chicago and formally organized a League of Women Voters of the United States. The first president of the new organization was Mrs. Maud Wood Park of Maine, and the League included in its list of early leaders such names as Bell Sherwin, Marguerite Wells, Edna Gellhorn, Katherine Ludington and Ruth Morgan. Some of the National League's more recent presidents have been: Miss Anna Lord Strauss, Mrs. John G. Lee, Mrs. Robert J. Phillips, and Mrs. Robert J. Stewart.



First president of the Chicago League of Women Voters in 1920  
Harriet Taylor Treadwell

The League of Women Voters of Illinois was organized in Chicago, in October of 1920. The Chicago Political Equality League, the Woman's City Club and the Seventh Ward Auxiliary to the Equal Suffrage Association were the first to affiliate with the League, Membership in 1921 totaled 2,173. Past presidents of the League of Women Voters of Illinois included Julia Lathrop, Mary Foulke Morrisson, Bertha Bidwell Rosentiel and Clare Hart Treadway. The Illinois League occasionally provided the national League with officers, such as Julia Lathrop who became First Vice-President, 1924, 1925, Mrs. James W. Morrisson, First Vice-President, in 1926, and Miss W.W. Ramsey, Fifth Vice-President, 1928-1930.

Also in 1920, the Chicago Political Equality League, founded thirty years earlier, was succeeded by a new organization called the Chicago League of Women Voters. In 1922, the Chicago League of Women Voters became the Chicago League of Women Voters Forum upon its merger with the state League and upon redefinition of its aims, Five years later, the organization became known as the Forum of the League of Women Voters. In October of 1931, the Forum of the League of Women Voters affected a union with the Cook County League of Women Voters, the latter having been created in 1929. Eventually, the Cook County League was succeeded by the Cook County Council, composed of representatives of the Leagues within Cook County.

# League of Women Voters of Chicago

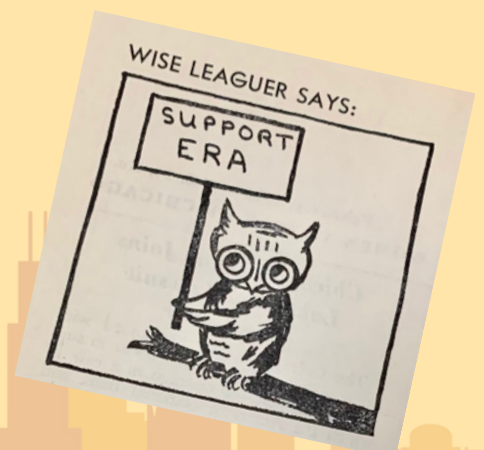
## History

The League of Women Voters of Chicago, on the other hand, was the product of a decision by ten Chicago-area chapters to form a superstructure charged with coordinating their activities. Thus, on April 14, 1950, delegates from ten local Leagues resolved that a League of Women Voters of Chicago shall be organized and that the Local and provisional Leagues in Chicago be known from then on as Branches. The Branches transferred the bulk of their money reserves to the new organization's treasury.



President of the newly organized League of Women Voters of Chicago 1950-1952, Mrs. Hoyt R. Ogram

In 1951, the League of Women Voters of Chicago held its first annual meeting and drew up its own by-laws. Article I of these by-laws stated that: "This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Illinois." The first president of this League was Mrs. Hoyt Ogram, whose term of office extended from 1950-1952. Subsequent presidents, each serving a two-year term, were: Helen B. Patton, Mrs. Harold A. Monger, Mrs. George Proctor, Mrs. William Saphir, Mrs. Paul K. Weicheselbaum, Mrs. Lester J. Senechalle, Mrs. Mallery Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Ely Aaron and Mrs. Hans Mattick.



# Past Chicago League Presidents

Presidents since April 14, 1950, when ten local Leagues merged to form the League of Women Voters of Chicago.

1950-1952 Mrs. Hoyt R. Ogram (Dorothy)  
1952-1953 Mrs. Bradford L. Patton (Helen)  
1953-1954 Mrs. Harold A. Monger  
1954-1956 Mrs. George Proctor  
1956-1958 Mrs. William Saphir (Carol Hess)  
1958-1960 Mrs. Paul K. Weichselbaum (Ruth Meyer)  
1960-1962 Mrs. Lester J. Senechalle (Charlotte)  
1962-1964 Mrs. Mallery Fitzpatrick Jr. (Christine)  
1964-1966 Mrs. Ely M. Aaron (Helen)  
1966-1968 Mrs. Hans W. Mattick (June)  
1968-1970 Mrs. Harold L. Passman (Helen)  
1970-1972 Janet Stessl  
1972-1977 Elinor Elam  
1977-1978 June Mattick  
1978 Esther Krieger  
1978-1981 Pauline Pantsios  
1981-1984 Betty Willhoite  
1984-1986 Jacqueline Brown and Marion Meyerson  
1986-1988 Jan Flapan and Marion Meyerson  
1988-1992 Edna Pardo  
1992-1993 Edna Pardo and Daphne Daume  
1993-1996 Daphne Daume  
1996-2000 Carol A. Maier  
2000-2001 VPs Emelda L. Estell and Priscilla Kersten  
2001-2004 Emelda L. Estell  
2004-2005 Thayer Caskey  
2005 Naisy Dolar and Pamela Stauffer  
2006 Pamela Stauffer and Esta Kallen  
2006-2010 Esta Kallen  
2010-2011 Esta Kallen and Margaret Herring  
2011-2016 Margaret Herring  
2016-2019 Annie Logue  
2019-Present Anne Jamieson



# Past Greensfelder-Elam Award Recipients

This award was established by LWV Chicago in 1980 and was renamed the Greensfelder-Elam Award in March 1999 for League members Olive Greensfelder and Elinor Elam. The award honors “Chicago Leaguers who have demonstrated extraordinary long-term dedication and effectiveness in League work.”

1981 Charlotte Senechalle  
1982 Eleanor Elam  
1983 Daphne Daume  
1984 Pauline Pantsios  
1985 Betty Willhoite  
1986 Francis Lee  
1987 Edna Pardo  
1988 Jackie Brown  
1989 Barbara Page Fiske  
1990 Elizabeth Spiegel  
1991 Martha Brislen  
1992 Jan Flapan  
1993 Grace Glicker  
1994 Ruth Hadra  
1994 Roberta Wilson  
1995 Dorothy Scheff  
1996 Marion Meyerson  
1997 Margaret Herring  
1998 Clara Fleming  
1999 Winnie Slusser  
2000 Terry Williams

2001 Carol Maier  
2002 Beverly Meyer  
2003 Priscilla Kersten  
2004 Mimi Gilpin  
2005 Emelda Estell  
2006 Lois Snyder  
2007 Rochelle Riffer  
2008 Bernice Fortini  
2009 Helene Gabelnick  
2010 Esta Kallen  
2011 Carol Ziegeldorf  
2012 Patricia Graunke  
2013 Leslie Corbett-Chenowith  
2014 Joan Morton  
2015 Annie Logue  
2016 Rae Sokolow  
2017 Nancy Brandt  
2018 Catherine Potkay  
2019 Hollis Burgess  
2020 Patricia Vogtman  
2021 Pris Mims





# Join Us

## Become a Member of LWV Chicago

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to people ages 16 and older. Your membership gives the League the political influence needed to build a voice for citizens and a force for change.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders, using their experience to create positive, lasting change.

**Be Informed:** Get access to our programs, publications, and discussions.

**Serve Your City:** Register voters, educate the public, and meet with government officials.

**Create Change:** Study issues and shape public policy.

**Meet New People:** Our members are warm, welcoming, interesting, and dynamic.

**Develop New Skills:** Get experience in every branch of citizen advocacy.

**Be Active:** Be involved to the extent you choose to be.

By joining LWV Chicago, you automatically become a member of the following Leagues: LWV United States (LWVUS), LWV Illinois (LWVIL), LWV Cook County (LWVCC), LWV Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR), LWV Upper Mississippi River Region (LWVUMRR).

Visit [lwwchicago.org/join](http://lwwchicago.org/join) to add your voice to a powerful force of members from all 50 states, Washington DC, and U.S. territories.

Have any questions? Contact us at [312-939-5949](tel:312-939-5949) or email [league@lwwchicago.org](mailto:league@lwwchicago.org).

## Donate to LWV Chicago

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to empower voters and defend democracy.

Your donation will support LWV Chicago programs such as voter registration, candidate forums, public presentations, and civic education activities. By supporting the League, you will play a pivotal role in building strong communities through active participation in the democratic process.

To donate, visit [lwwchicago.org/donate](http://lwwchicago.org/donate) or text **SOC22** to **41444**.



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